Howland Wood – Curatorial

Comparette, T. Louis

[Superintendent, Mint of the U.S]

1916-1922

[Philadelphia, PA]

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

July 20, 1916.

My Dear Wood:

Under separate cover I have forwarded to you the unsightly MS. on the medals of 1915; miserable, yes, in appearance, but in the details and so far as the work of the printer will be concerned, I believe that it is all right. I have gone over it carefully.

Blame Belden for the appearance of the MS.! For when he was here and mentioned that you were waiting for my diatribe, I pitched in at once intending to have it off within two days. I knew that I did not have time enough to copy it, so concluded to paste the slips right on to the sheets and correct them. Then I learned that you were not in such a drunken hurry for it after all!

I have expected another medal from Flanagan; he said he had a photograph of it and it was to be sent to me. It has not turned up. If he sends it, we can add it in the galley sheets. The same, too, with the medals of your friends the "enemies of the M.!" Good! Did you get that from wife?

The plates I have arranged are only suggestive, as I believe I wrote you before. Do with them as you please. Flanagan will send you Photos of his Award medal, and you may already have it. Natural size of that abortion is four inches; be sure to instruct printer, unless you see fit to feature it with a "near view". Several of the medals I have had photographed you will not want to use in the plates; but I thought it better to include what you did not desire than to omit what you might want.

Shall be en route for the corn-fields of Ohio by the time you are reading this. Hicksville, Ohio, is the address, should you feel a sweaty impatience to communicate with me.

Sincerely yours,

P. L. Comparette

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

August 1, 1916.

My Dear Wood:

Here are two medals from Flanagan, just the prints furnished me. I suppose the medals are of same size as prints. I am forwarding them at once so that you can include them, one or both, in the plates if you so desire and yet have time.

The descriptions also included may be incorporated into the MSS. under the Irishman's name, or allowed to wait the receipt of the galley sheets.

Sincerely yours,

F. L. Bourquette

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

August 3, 1916.

My Dear Wood:

The inclosed letter from your wild Irishman neighbor explains itself. "He sure does" want those medals reproduced on the plates, and especially the Bulkeley medal deserves the honor. On the other hand some of the pieces I had photographed can well be omitted from the plates as they are no great credit to anyone. But when I first started to consider what should and what should not go into plates I was under the impression that we had very few really fit for that honor. We are better off than I then realized, if not really well off in that regard.

"Good time"on my little vacation!! 92° in the shade was the coldest day I had! Apart from heat, humidity and dust furnished the chief objects of my vacation interest. The Middle West was so near hell, that I consigned it to that happier place and beat it back - and last Monday I hit the worst day I ever knew in my life!! Oh, the joys of living - through July and August!

Sincerely yours,

P. L. Lamphanette

Philadelphia, Penna.
February 18, 1918

My Dear Wood: -

Your communication in re that brick of a paper did jar me, but I have so far recovered my equilibrium as to be able to sit my chair with a fair degree of safety.

As to the plates. That is not a very difficult matter, for me; the trouble is for you. Assuming that we can get only one of the bars on a plate, there will be apparently eight, as follows:

I. Tripod - Barley ear. 60 - 1.2 photo & draw
II. Trident-Caduceus. 41 - 1
III. Elephant- Hog. 59 - 2
IV. Eagle - Pegasus. 26 - 3 ← Mr B has a very nice cast
V. Tripod - Anchor. 37 - 3
VI. Cocks - Rostra. 53 1
VII. Ramo secco and false letter A.
VIII. "Fish bone" and crescent types. add 94 - 1 obv

The last two being groups of smaller bars will easily go each group on to one plate.

I am sending you some drawings based on the two small fragments of the tripod - barley ear type. Of course we must avoid anything looking like a suggstion that we are green enough to suppose that those fragments ever belonged to the same bar, though they may have done so. My artist had hardly avoided that. The correct statement can be made in the legend to go under the illustration.

We might simply reproduce the two fragments from Haeberlin's work, but it strikes me that the sketch is far more convincing. Of the two drawings the one of the tripod will not do. You will note that the upper pice is not correctly and faithfully drawn, as the cleavage of the fragment is throught the central ring of the lebes instead of where the artist has indicated; also that the rings are of a single piece and not double as she - that gives it all away - has indicated. So that part must be re-drawn. And I suggest that it be drawn detached from the rest of the sketch, something as I have tried to indicate on the barley ear drawing. You will probably see fit to make several modifications in the drawings, but I believe that they should be reproduced, for thus the type, and that is the Hauptsache, is best shown. And you will note that of the eleven "beards" on the left side of the barley head, only two or

three are not documented by the fragments, and eleven kernels are about the right number.

In the text I indicated two coins for reproduction, preferably by somewhat enlarged drawings. What do the sapient editors think of that suggestion? Shall we insert illustrations in the text or put all of them on plates? I may conclude to add one more coin, one bearing upon the last part of the discussion of the Tripod - barley ear brick, and at the same time may make a slight alteration in the text at that point. It will not be a considerable change or addition, but if you should desire to keep down costs just draw a blue pencil mark around the last dozen lines of that part of the MS text, where I have referred to Foville with a footnote reference to Grose in the Chronicle and you will save tearing down any type. Just warn the printer at that place to defer setting till revised text comes in with corrected proof sheets.

So far as I now can see, there will be mighty few changes to be made, perhaps none of material character.

I am sending you under separate cover such photographs as I possess and the drawings. You will note that I have Haeberlin's illustrations Tafel 9,1, both parts, and his 94,1, only the one side. But observe the peculiar curved device on the reverse of both. That is perhaps of little importance, but will appear to many as forming a connecting link between the pieces, identifying them with the same producer; and for that reason it might be well to reproduce the reverse of 94,1. Of course I have made no reference to that device. Let some other person see it for himself and imagine that he has made a discovery.

I am sending you herewith some now coins, struck here.

A. L. Comparetti

Very sincerely yours,

Write Comparetti use photo of part and the three coins wanted

Philadelphia, Penna.
March 28, 1918.

My Dear Wood: -

Your letter with inclosure is just at hand. Thank you, especially for hints about Quarters.

I note what you say in re the illustrations, and your suggestion seems to me a very good one. I had thought of the same scheme of treating that type but a chap supposed to be acquainted with the photogravure and related businesses assured me that it would not be successful. The moral is, don't be in a hurry to accept the other fellow's expert advice. I have no doubt but that you are sure of the process. A pen drawing of the inserted parts of the type should bring it up well.

And let us not forget, when writing the legend to go under the illustration, to use the term TYPE therein in such a way as to make it plain to the inexpert that the plate illustrates not any particular bar but merely the restored type of a bar. One cannot be too particular about such matters; the literature of archaeology is full of mistakes and misunderstandings due to just such slips as one might easily make in this case.

By what scheme did both you and Newell get drawn for jury duty? I hope it is Grand Jury service and that you are chasing the Hun. If so don't be meticulously careful about infringing his rights; dam his rights and his lights!

Sincerely yours,

N. L. Conquette

Philadelphia, Penna.
April 1, 1918.

My Dear Wood: -

With reference to the Eagle-Pegasus type of bar, I hardly know what to say. I have the plaster cast Spinks sent Mr. Bement and I have compared it with the Haeberlin illustration. I have some doubts about our getting anything better from the cast than from the illustration. Perhaps, however, the results are better when the photograph is taken direct from the object than when copied from an illustration. Of course, if you think it best to try I will have the cast photographed; or I will send it to you for your own inspection, if you'd like. I have very little experience with such matters.

I think it would be well to have both sides of Haeberlin's 94,1.

Somehow I am very much inclined to think that we should have the two coins illustrated, if possible. The British Museum of Roman Coins, Plate XCIX,9 shows a very good specimen, and the pig seems to be a "she-pig" too. You seem to hold pen-drawings in very little favor, yet for insertion in the text, I have always been inclined to look with favor upon them; and as stated before I am inclined to believe that it would be better to insert those two illustrations in the text. They figure in the argument and not in the thesis, and so should hardly be placed in the plates if avoidable.

As you will see I am quite ready to yield in most, if not all points, to your august editorial judgement as well as to your superior technical knowledge.

Sincerely yours,

A. L. Comparetti

Philadelphia, Penna.
April 4, 1918.

My Dear Wood: -

It will not be possible, because not prudent, for me to go to New York this evening. For several months I have been in rather poor health, being afflicted with some sort of stomach trouble. For the past few days it has been aggravated. I am somewhat apprehensive, I must confess.

To make matters still worse, the other morning the block in which I live was caught in a smallpox quarantine and we all had to submit to vaccination. The thing is now working, working day and night. And if you ever had any experience of the sort, you know that I am not in condition to enjoy company very much. My arm is pretty sore, whether from the effects of the virus or from infection I do not know. I fear the latter, for the confounded municipal doctors were a nasty looking set.

I wish you a pleasant evening, and I am sure it will be with Newell's certainly interesting paper to enliven it. I'd like to be there very much.

Sincerely yours,

A. L. Comparetti

Philadelphia, Penna.
April 12, 1918.

My Dear Wood: -

Your letter is interesting in so many ways. So you too have been having dyspepsia. I have suffered with that or something of the sort, nothing worse I trust, for the past four, yes six, months. I have had a dreadful experience with it. I trust that you will NOT have such an experience. I am hoping for a cure on the golf-links.

I have not read the Munsey article on German war medals. I noticed it, but did not read it to see where the photographs had been obtained. The photographs were doubtless made from our pieces. We now have them here, and others besides those illustrated.

I was about to say that you must not have received my letter in answer to yours of March 30th, but your pen note at bottom of the letter apprises me that you did receive it. I must have failed, however, explicitly to state that the Haeberlin numbers you mentioned strike me as all right. Would you care to have the cast of the Eagle-Pegasus bar sent Mr. Bement? I have it and can send it to you if you think a better plate can be made from a photograph taken directly from the piece than from one copied from one of H's. plates.

I leave it to your decision whther to employ a half-tone or line drawing of the coins. You know which will afford better results. But enlarge it, yes!

As to the illustration of the bar with tripod and barley ear, I surmise that your plan to fill in photographs of the fragments is the best. The trouble with the drawings I had made was that they were not quite truthful in case of the preserved portions.

I understand that you have had experience in photogravure work and so I am going to leave about all questions pertaining to the plates to you; and if some error should be made I shall not strike for New York with scalping-knife in hand.

When will the printer begin setting up the matter? If you still have the MS. in hand, I suggest that you in case you are running through it again, keep an eye out

Philadelphia, Penna.
M a y 16, 1 9 1 8.

My Dear Wood: -

The photographs of the plates and restorations came this morning. So far as I can see they are all right, are good in fact. I think that you have secured excellent results from the Haeberlin plates.

As to the restoration I have no criticism to offer. It is as good as one could expect, and satisfactory. If there be any suggestion I might make it is that in the restored part the ends of the beards be outlined a little darker and thus give more effect to the whole. In the drawing by Mrs. Nash Shaw you will observe that the beards are a little more heavily limned. I do not know that I am making myself clear; perhaps it would be better for my artistic reputation if I were hopelessly obscure. Perhaps it would be better stated if I were to suggest that by drawing the outline of the beards a little stronger, especially toward the ends, the contrast between old and restored parts would be a little less glaring but in no wise misleading.

This only by way of amateur suggestions, You know much more about the business than I do.

I can see no objection to making a uniform reduction in the size of the illustrations of the bars, say one-fourth or one-third as the size of the plates may require.

Along with the photographs I am sending another memorandum on Indian coins. I have not the time to copy it, nor have I the services of a typiste at my command, but you may have; so have it copied and return my copy to me. That is, if the matter seems to you worth having, and it seems to me to be valuable.

Sincerely yours,

R. L. Comparette

P.S. I trust that the proofs of the text of the paper will start before long. I do want to get it off my hands before the hot weather. C

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
MINT OF THE UNITED STATES
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

OFFICE OF
THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 11, 1919

My Dear Wood;

I am sorry that I got so mixed up on the multitudinous spellings ~~spellings~~ of that name Messana, and so employed all three or four of them. But it was done and I can see no other way but to correct a as I have done, seeing that this ancient Roman spelling is now in earlier pages which may have been printed by this time. Besides it is really best, a fact I should have realized from the first.

Sincerely yours,

Please return Wood

Philadelphia, Penna.
January 31, 1919

My Dear Wood: -

Thank you for the copy of the second Signature of the paper. By this time I surmise that the entire paper has been run off, as I received the very last sheet from Mr. Marvin about two weeks since, when he asked about a correction. When you receive copies of the last Signature I should be glad to see one, if you have a spare example.

Without desiring to hurry Marvin any, yet if I could secure about a dozen copies of the reprint round the 10th of February, I should be indeed delighted. I shall have a special use for them about that time.

The Chairman of our Program Committee called me up this morning and told me that they proposed to have a numismatic round table the next meeting. The idea was promptly approved and I hope it will be carried out.

I suspect that Schulman is now in the country, for we received our German medals yesterday, and from where nobody could exactly tell - they just arrived, and that was all.

Sincerely yours,

[illegible]

February 11th, 1919.

My dear Comparette:-

I was suddenly called out of town the first part of last week and got back only yesterday. Under separate cover I sent you the signature of your article which I found on my desk. Possibly Marvin has gone ahead and bound you up the reprints so that you now have them.

Very truly yours,

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
MINT OF THE UNITED STATES
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 18, 1919.

My Dear Wood: -

We had so much near-excitement here last week, what with interesting members of the Assay Commission, what with unusual lunches here at the mint etc. etc. that I cannot recall whether or not I wrote you in re the few separates Marvin sent me. I received 14 copies from him at the very date they were desired, for which I wish to thank you as well as him. Of course I acknowledged the receipt of them to Marvin.

Just now I am wondering if your plan is to deliver me any more in advance of publication of the Journal later in the year. I should be glad to have them if it is convenient to get them out. Would it be possible to deliver all the extra copies, over and above the fifty to which I am entitled under the regulations? Of course I shall be careful about giving them out in advance; and I should not send out more than a dozen, or perhaps little more than I now have, Before the others are printed please fix the price at which they should be sold and have that printed on the cover, though I never expect to sell any of them

Whenever the extras are ready for delivery, please inform me and I will forward you my checque for the amount they are to cost. And by the way, that reminds me that we never reached a settled conclusion as to the cost per hundred or per fifty for the extras. Perhaps that should be settled, because they might run to a higher figure than my purse will bear. Besides the number I could take would depend in a large measure upon the cost of them.

We had an interesting meeting of our Philadelphia Society last evening, with wide range of objects exhibited for our admiration, including old parchments, medals and coins; but the best thing of the evening was a large collection of Indian pipes, many of which had an interesting history. We expect to have an address from Newell at some future time, just when not yet decided. I should also be glad to see you appear on one of our evenings with a paper. Why not? It would have to come somtime next year. If you think favorably of the suggestion, let me know and I will hand in your name to the Program Committee.

I received the fourth signature. Thank you.

Very sincerely yours,

P. L. Campbell

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

February 24, 1919

My Dear Wood: -

Your letter just at hand. Somehow I do not quite get you in the matter of Plate VII. The plate is correctly printed in the separates sent me. Did he make a change after those were struck off? I do not recall pasting up any plates. I do not find proofs of the plate among my proof material of the paper. I find only proofs of the first suggestion of the plates, but this No. VII is not arranged at all in that.

I am returning the plate with the proper arrangement, which is the one that appears in the Separates sent me.

There are two statements in your letter, one of which perplexes me, the other causes me a bit of anxiety. The first is: "If I remember rightly this has the price, five dollars, as you requested some time ago". I don't see just what that can be the price of. I rather wished to print a price on the cover of the separates; I recall suggesting FIFTY CENTS; but called my attention to the fact that the ~~fact the~~ parts of the Journal must not be offered for less than the cost of the whole- a point well taken. On the other hand it would hardly seem necessary to put the price of the whole journal on a separate print of a small portion of it. That is the reason I cannot see to wht you allude. I should think that a DOLLAR or at most $1.25 would be a just proportion of the cost of the whole. Nobody would at that price buy the separate, but the figure would deter some from asking for a copy out of mere curiosity.

But the uncertainty as to the printing of the extra separates desired is most disturbing. I rather understood that we were clear on that point. However this is the time to remember that new saw; DON'T WORRY. MAYBE IT AIN'T SO.

Sincerely yours,

T. L. Comparette

C. M. C.

February 27th, 1919.

My dear Comparette:-

I have been able to straighten out several things with Marvin. They have printed about 175 reprints of your article. The order evidently was to print 100 extra copies over the 50 you were to get anyhow. I trust these will be sufficient. I am enclosing a sample of the cover. This has the price $5.00 on it, and as they are all printed why not let it go.

The plate 7, there has been a mix-up on. The advance copies that you got had certain of the bars printed as is evidently correct, with the shadow of the pieces at the top. Marvin noticed this and thought it was wrong, and had them changed around so that the shadow was at the bottom. The balance of the run is that way. He has agreed to print these over as it was his mistake in turning them around. He is now waiting for us to say to go ahead or leave them as they are. If as they are will make no difference to you in your argument or for any other reason why not let them stay as they are. If you really prefer to have them changed, that is as your first reprint shows, do not hesitate to let me know and I will have him do them over.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

February 28th, 1919.

Dear Comparette:-

Since I wrote you yesterday, Marvin has sent on the plates of your article, and I am enclosing a set to you. I note that plate 7 is in the middle of a four page form which would necessitate, I think, printing the whole form over, so if the turning upside down of coins 1 and 2 are not very vital, why not let them stand as they are.

Yours very truly,

Philadelphia, Penna.
February 28, 1919

My Dear Wood: -

Your letter with its large fund of information is at hand. The 175 separates will be satisfactory, though the order was for 200 extra of the usual fifty, according to a letter copy I have, and the original of which I suppose was sent you. This will cost me how much? $25?

I regret the error in regard to the Plate, and I should indeed be glad to say, let it stand; but I fear that whatever force my argument, a rather bold one indeed, may have, would be considerably impaired by that confusion in the plate. I can see no way out of it but to reprint the plates struck off after the change was made.

I would be willing to stand the cost of striking off the covers again for the 175 separates and have the price that appears thereon revised. That FIVE DOLLARS, though I could strike it out with a pen, would look ridiculous. Of course if you do not wish to let me do this and still feel that the extra cost should not be incurred, I suppose that it must stand "as is", but I'd rather, very much rather, have the price about the right proportionate figure, which you may determine.

As to securing the Legion of Honneur medals from the French Government, I fear that it would be easy to get into a delicate situation and then fail besides in securing the decorations. It was my understanding that the grant was made almost without precedent and as a mark of respect to our Government. Of course I did not apply for the medals, far from that! I got the idea into their heads in a very indirect way; in fact, I did not expect any such results. My frontal attack was directed to the Directeur of the Paris mint, but not in the way of an application. Then there was an assault from the rear through a distinguished Frenchman, who does not know me and how insignificant a person I am (and he never shall know that) and a carefully worded letter, quite remote from anything direct, started him into action, on his own initiative as he thought! I got the medals, and I secured them in a dignified manner, and that is all I care for. They are a glorious bunch. I'd like to see you have them, but I do not see how I could help you, and I am sure my avenues of approach could not be used.

Sincerely yours,

G. L. Compostella
C. T. C.

March 1st, 1919.

My dear Comparette:-

Your letter just at hand, and I have instructed Marvin to reprint the covers with $1.25 on them. This is as low as I want to make them as the forthcoming Journal I do not think will be as large as usual. I have also told him to reprint Plate 7.

Very truly yours,

P.S. Think of it, this came within an ace of going to Elder! On whom would the joke have been? I should have cared but little.

Philadelphia, Penna.
March 3, 1919

My Dear Wood: -

Your good note has just come to hand, and it brought me both relief and great satisfaction. You have done what I greatly desired. I will brand you a jolly good fellow.

Could you do a little favor for me, a bit of sleuth work, to satisfy a slight curiosity?

It is nothing more than to call up Elder and ask or rather ascertain if he is ill, if he has the Flu and is in bed or has been for some time past, under constant care of his physician.

On the face of things - note I say on the face of things, for behind the face the same facts may stand - he has pulled off one of those bonehead bits of folly I have known him to do before. In the end of January he sent me his personal check to secure some medals from the mint. I cashed the check and had the medals sent him, the package going forward February 1st. On the 9th he wrote me that the box had not arrived, and on the 15th he wrote again to the same effect. Meanwhile I had had the Express people start a tracer, and had so advised him. On the 18th he wrote me that the package had "just arrived"; but on the 20th the Express Agent here handed me a communication from their New York office with copy of entry from their delivery book, showing that the package had been delivered February 3rd, and redeipted for by "T.L.Elder per E". The Express people insinuated that I was personally implicated in the effort to get an unjust recovery for a lost package; but did not go beyond a very slight insinuation. I wrote Elder the details, calling attention to the dates. His Auction Clerk has written me twice and stated that Elder was sick in bed and could not attend to business, but here too there are some amusing discrepancies of statements.

With no intention to say anything more about the mat-

ter, but out of sheer curiosity I should like to know if the fellow is really sick - I trust he is not so - or is just shamming because of his shame. For it does not seem to me very likely that that package could have been delivered, and the contents sold within a few days, as I now know they were,—his own letter of the 18th shows that fact,— and yet he not know about it. Such a thing might happen at some large, but ill regulated, establishment; but His shop is neither so large and probably not so ill regulated as to excuse such a blunder.

If you can easily secure the facts about his health I should be glad to have you mention it in some letter at a future time. I assure you that the information will never be used, as I have not the slightest intention to call him down. I am only curious. He has done things not much different from this before in his dealings with me, assuming of course that his ~~xxxxx~~ apparent error this time was a deliberate act.

Sincerely yours,

P. L. Comparette

P.S. Better not inquire about his health but have some sort of [illegible] so to talk about with him. The inquiry about health might [illegible] his suspicion, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

March 5th, 1919.

My dear Comparette:-

Your letter came yesterday afternoon, and as I knew more or less about our friend I did not have to call him up. I know for a fact he has been laid up the past week or ten days with the Flu. Just when the attack began I could not say. He is absolutely balled up and don't know know where he is at at he is moving to his new quarters at 81 west 35th Street. He has been getting ready to move for sometime and things have been in confusion. The safe went some time last week, and one of his girls is at one place and the other the other, and his two girls are pretty near wild as right at the height of the moving they could not get one bit of help from Elder. I suppose I could pick up some more facts for you but I think this is all that is necessary.

Very truly,

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
MINT OF THE UNITED STATES
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 25, 1919.

My Dear Wood: -

It is far from my desire to keep punching you up in re the Separates of the Aes Signatum paper, or in any way to seem to be doing so. But it has occurred to me that possibly Marvin might have a few more in such state that he could easily prepare them for delivery, and I should be mighty glad to get about a score of copies more. There are about that many more to whom I should like to send them at the earliest convenince and then the matter may rest until the Journal appears for the year. These advance copies are of course being sent to persons who might take a notion to review the paper, and if the review were prepared even now it would not appear until late in the year; or they are going to men who I know do not take the Journal and seldom see it. You see that I should like to get these advance copies out somewhat near together so that the howling down, if any, may come in some sort of chorus.

A letter from Hill this A.M. bears assent and dissent; but if he is really sincere in his expressions that the paper marks a "great advance", and that "your searching criticisms of the earlier theories ***** have cleared the ground etc." that

is almost as much as I expected in the way of results. As might be expected, he commends what I have been regarding rotten or the next thing to it, and is not yet convinced by what I still think the stronger part of the argument; but that is no unusual happening. He says that he is going to read the paper again and more carefully.

Sincerely yours,

T. L. Bouquet

March 26th, 1919.

My dear Comparette:-

I supposed that Harvin had sent you the balance of the reprints some time ago. There is no reason why you should not have all of them, and I will see that you get them. I can not understand why this has happened.

Has the Mint Collection any coins of Tiguciglpa struck in 1823 or thereabouts? This was the mint of Honduras, and the Spaniards struck pieces there the last year of their hold and Mexico struck others the same year. If you have any, could you send me plaster impressions? We have four varities here, and I think I will make a list of them.

Newell is out of the Army and is back in New York. You can imagine we are all thankful.

Am glad to know that Hill is partway favorable to your article, and perhaps on a second reading he may be more so. Time and experience probably has added to his own natural British inclinations to be conservative.

Very truly,

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

March 28, 1919

My Dear Wood: -

Under separate cover I am sending you the copy of Campaner y Fuentes' Indicador.

It seems that we have no coins of the Tigucigalpi mint of the date you mention. When I read your letter I was under the impression that we did have some, but I find that I was mistaken.

The separates have arrived; came today.

Respectfully,

H. Louis Comparette

Curator N.C.

April 3rd, 1919.

Dear Comparette:-

Your favor as well as Campaner's Indicator came to hand the other day. Many thanks for sending these on to me. I will return it in a few days. As a matter of fact it has not quite the value that I was hoping it had.

I guess the Tuguegalpa Mint is rare. We have four varieties here, and I have found mention in various books three other varieties but have not as yet located a single additional specimen in this country.

Very truly yours,

May 1, 1919

Dr. T. L. Comparette
Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Comparette:

The enclosed letter, probably from you, came yesterday, and thinking possibly this man might show up, I held it. Probably you had us in mind when you wrote to him, and got down our address.

I am sorry to know that you have been ailing. I know that you had not been up to scratch for a long time. I trust that you will locate the seat of the evil, and be able to get a good and efficient remedy.

Although I was in Philadelphia three days last week, with the Oriental Society, I did not get one moment's breathing spell, otherwise I would have been around to see you.

Excuse me for not thanking you the other day when I returned Companer's book. I hereby extend to you my thanks for the loan of this, and trust you have received it alright.

Cordially yours,

Curator.

Philadelphia, Penna.
June 13, 1919

My Dear Wood: -

Does the Society receive the Swiss Journal of numismatics, and also the Belgian?

Somebody worked a popular article out of the Aes Signatum paper and syndicated it to several Sunday papers. I received a Clipping Bureau's advertisement with a copy of it from the Brooklyn Union, and later I learned that the same had appeared in a Philadelphia paper. I have been wondering who the guilty person could be. If it was you, prepare for a quarrel. I cannot recall letting anybody have a copy of the paper who would think of trying such a joke on the newspapers. Whoever he was, as might be expected, missed the main point. That is the only reason I did not tax you with the crime at once.

Have just got a good sized book order approved, for which I am truly grateful.

Sincerely yours,

A. L. Frothingham

June 14th, 1919

Dear Comparette:-

We received both the Swiss and Belgian Journals. Neither have been coming over for the past few years, except the other day the Belgian Journal came marked 1914-18. The number had been printed in 1914 but could not be sent out.

I can not imagine who stole your thunder. However don't you worry, as I really don't care. The only thing is that the main point was lost, but the main point is generally lost when a paper gets hold of a thing.

Your suggestion about the evolution of nickel coinage is good and I would like to see it worked up. I am at a loss to know who to ask. A man worked up something of the kind for a technical journal a few years ago and I have his notes. I really have not time to do it but will get busy to persuade some one. If you have any dope on the subject would you care to send it along to use if I get someone?

The trouble is that it is hard to get good articles any way and the few writers generally want to pick their own subjects. However the idea of steering them is a good one and must be done to keep up the standard.

Very truly yours,

Curator

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

June 17, 1919.

My Dear Wood: -

Herewith I am returning Schulman's letter. I have had some correspondence with the State Department in re Schulman's proposed visit to this country, so that I could not very well open it up again. It would probably be useless. Somebody stuck him to the heart.

I am inclined to believe that it was the Chapman outfit that queered the project. Both of them have spoken very derogatorily of Schulman and his business and his proposed visit to me. Especially has Henry done so. I am alos inclined to believe that one of them, if not both, attacked my activities in procuring medallic monuments of the World War, but to no purpose. My plans have not been interfered with. Of course they wish to have me purchase coins of them.

This is of course entre nous. For I may be wrong, but I am pretty well satisfied in my own mind that it is the correct view of the situation.

Big improvenets in the Cabinet in the last two months, more to follow, and a first class project hatching.

I will keep the nickel coinage business in mind and try to help you find a man to treat it.

Sincerely yours,

F. L. Comparette

August 20, 1919.

Mr. T. L. Comparette, Curator,
United States Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Comparette:-

The enclosed copy of a letter from Schulmann may interest you. I think our friend Hen has been doing his earnest.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

August 21, 1919.

My Dear Wood: -

Thank you for letting me see the copy of Schulman's letter. It is interesting, indeed. However it but confirms my suspicions regarding Henry's actions toward Schulman.

It is sometimes a little hard to understand what the Chapmans mean, but I suppose that they are simply expressing their peculiar natures when they indulge in these occasional orgies of spite, jealousy, and rude assault upon the rights of others to the good opinion of their fellow men and business customers. They are a queer kettle of fish. Withal they are a source of constant amusement to many in this old town. Their social aspirations and constant endeavors to break through the purlieus of the Four Hundred would evoke a fit of laughter from a Missouri mule, if the tenth of the things they do could become generally known. But so far as I know they have never succeeded in breaching the Hindenburg Line of decency's defenses. About the best they can do is to run out to an afternoon tea, to which they have secured an invitation somehow, an invitation the wife alone is expected to honor; but Toast and Tea, as the brothers are called, will doll themselves up furiously and solemnly go into one of those hen parties, and there sit and sweat and talk and talk and talk, till the room sounds like a Davis and Harvey coin sale.

When Schulman comes over, don't you think it might be well to caution him against too much rumpus with Whiskers and particularly against dragging our names into the fuss?

What is the Society's experience with silver coins in respect to tarnish? Remote from sources of acid you probably are not troubled with that matter so much as I am. The air here is saturated with acids from the mint and various manufactures in the neighborhood, so that tarnish is a real problem.

Have you ever tried any such protection as lacquer? Recently I have almost been converted to that means of preservation. I was shown two proofs, one of which had been lacquered when procured years ago, the other not. The first looked perfect and was so; the other was black. Then I cleaned a base silver piece and lacquered it, another I cleaned carefully and did not lacquer it. The former remains perfect.

Collectors, of course, have sentiment against any such course, but in case of museum specimens that need be handled but seldom and where the interest is only in preservation of the coins and free from personal sentiments, I am almost per-

suaded, and have been for years, that a preserving coat of something would be worth while. Several years ago I cleaned up a few German coins that had become perfectly black; then I coated them with a fine film of mutton tallow. The tallow, of course dulls them somewhat and obscures the type slightly, but it preseves them and can be easily removed when desired.

The trasparent celluloid lacquer now obtainable is an almost perfect article for its purpose. In the specimen I tried, I will defy the keenest expert to detect the presence of the substance on the coin. How it will preserve the piece time alone ~~xxx~~ will test.

If you have had any experince in this phase of museum work, please pass it on to me.

With kind regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

D. L. Conforetti

P.S. Have secured another fine case of decorations.

C.

August [illegible], 191[illegible].

Mr. T. L. Comparette, Curator,
United States Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Comparette:-

When I sent you the copy of Schilmann's letter I forgot to say to you that I did not mention your name to Schulmann in fact, I had forgotten that you had mentioned your complaints to me. I had gotten the information about H. C. from other sources. H. C's actions fitted in with his policy inacted by him for some years. He was [illegible] thinking they should not come to this country or send their catalogues over. Both brothers have repeatedly tried to exclude foreign coins from the Numismatist.

Silver coins keep fairly well in the dark that is, in the strong cabinets. Those on exhibition tarnish although, as near as I can find out, we have no gases up here. I am inclined to think the sun-light or strong light does this damage, as those coins exposed to bright lights tarnish more than those that are in the dark parts of the building.

I have often thought of lacquering some pieces but have never had the time to get around to it. Years ago, some years ago, on a lacquer from which we showed me was very good it did not show and one would never know it was on the coin. In fact, if I had the time I would like to lacquer all of our silver coins and just now many of them are very black and I clean only those absolutely necessary when I put them on exhibition. I prefer to have a coin have a tarning rather than that tinny look so common after unskillful cleaning.

Please do not be so stingy with your postscript "Have secured another fine case of decorations" let

Mr. T. L. Commerville, (3)

us know something more about these.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
MINT OF THE UNITED STATES
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

October 17, 1919

My Dear Wood: -

I am returning herewith the Crusader coins. I selected out one from each group, and two where there were several. In some cases we already had specimens of the same issues..

Assays have been made of some of the issues, but not a really satisfactory quantitative assay. In fact I am somewhat doubtful if this office at the mint can make an accurate quantitative assay. They are not trained men, but have picked up all they know about the subject here at the mint. They can test for the gold and the silver, but when they have determined the quantity of those metals, and perhaps of copper, they are done. They can only report traces of other metals.

They report chiefly copper in these coins, with traces of tin in one, perhaps of lead in another, and slight traces of silver in one, all of Guy II. I have asked for assays of other issues, and then if reports are any more satisfactory I will send them on to you.

Thank you so much for letting us havethese specimens. Have been very busy. You see this is a one-man job, have to do everything myself, so my efforts are always somewhat distracted

Sincerely yours

T. L. Comparette

October 20th, 1919.

Dr. T. L. Comparetto,
United States Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparetto:-

Your letter with the Crusader coins at hand. I am glad you were able to find some. I thought some one in the Mint was able to make quantitative analysis fairly easily. It was merely a matter of curiosity on my part to know what these pieces contain. It looks as if they substituted tin or something like that for silver. The crusade leaders were, of course, under big expense to get to the east, and I suppose it was no more than fair to let them make as much money as they could on their coins.

Do not forget if you can do it conveniently to find out if the engraving department are through with our British war medals.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Philadelphia, Penna.
October 28, 1919.

My Dear Wood: -

Can you tell me what the color of the ribbon is for the Bulgarian Iron Cross? I am following the rather dubious method of using ribbons that approach as near as possible to the correct thing in exhibiting some of these decorations until I can secure the correct ribbons from Europe.

You called my attention to the Order of the Star, marked for Rumania on my label, and said it should be Serbia. I note that Schulman has it attributed to Rumania. It is his Cat.73, No.275. The medal exactly answers to the description there given. I wish you would note it and tell me whether S. is wrong. Perhaps you did not look at the piece very carefully when here. I have no publication on such objects, but must secure one as soon as possible.

It was an inspiration to get along with you and Newell and some others. I wish we had some way of meeting oftener. Contact and comparison of notes and conceits are what we need, at least I do. There is very little association here that is in the least inspiring. It is for the most part commercial.

Sincerely yours,

A. L. Comparetti

October 29th, 1919.

Dear Comparetto:-

I can't tell you the ribbon as yet for the Bulgarian Iron Cross. The order of the Star of Rumania as you describe it is correct. I do not think this was the piece that I called your attention to. I have forgotten now which one it was. I remember something like questioning what I thought was the Serbian Eagle or the Serbian shield on a piece you had marked for Rumania. Probably I am wrong as I had nothing to verify it, and simply glanced at the piece.

I suppose you know that Schulman is in the country. He is now out in Chicago and will drop in to see you sometime.

Very truly yours,

Philadelphia, Penna.
December 17,1919

Dear Wood: -

Can you send me one of Newell's plaster casts of a coin? Any piece, one for instance that he did not find serviceable. Or if none of that sort is available if you will send me one that he still might wish to preserve, I will return it after inspection. I am writing you because I understand that Newell is on his way abroad.

I only wish to see the form in which he has found it best to make such casts.

The project of publishing the king pins of the Bement collection is now under way and I am making the casts. It occurred to me that it would be a good scheme to make the casts with a rather thick back, later have them marbelized and so preserve them for the future. I have made some in that way. But I am wondering if there will be any more trouble in routing them for photogravures if made so. Of course I wish the plates to be as near perfect as possible above all.

Sincerely yours,

T. L. Comparette

January 3, 1920

T. L. Comparette, Esq.
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

Please pardon the delay in answering your letter of a couple of weeks ago. At that time I was on Jury duty, and then with the rush of balancing up the year's work and seeing Newell off to Europe, I have only just got around to sending you casts, &c.

Under separate cover I am sending you a wax mould and two plaster casts. We use almost entirely now Plastacene of the yellow variety. Steer clear of the olive green. For convenience's sake we put this into round boxes smoothed down and covered with talc.

I am sending you one impression of lightly tinted plaster. This is burnt sienna in the form of powder mixed with the plaster. This I have trimmed down, showing it in its form ready for photographing. The white plaster impression is just as it comes from the mould. We very seldom make white plaster impressions as they are too glaring, and photograph too light.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

Philadelphia, Penna.
January 9,1920

My Dear Wood: -

Thank you so much for the specimens of plaster impression and casts. They are splendid in every way and set a higher degree of excellence than I can hope to attain, I fear.

Just now I am somewhat discouraged with the results of my efforts. I have taken a good many impressions and have not as yet got satisfactory results for a good deal of them.

For one thing I am wholly unable to find the color of wax you use. I have tried in several artist-supplies houses here and the nearest I can find is a very much lighter shade of yellow. And there seems to be a difference in constituency, perhaps due to the coloring material employed. I have not succedded in securing the perfectly smoothe and even shiny surface your specimen shows. As a result my casts are not so smoothe and perfect as the one you sent.

Perhaps this is in a measure due to the method of manipulating the talcum. I now surmise that I have been somewhat too generous in the use of that element, or have failed to reduce it to an evenly distributed surface etc.

What method do you employ to get the plaster into the details? I have been told of two, one by blowing upon the thin plaster, a small amount of it placed in the mould, the other by using a camel's hair brush to work it into the details. I have much the better results in filling the details in the latter way, but sometime I wonder if the brush, though lightly used, does not roughen the surface of the mould.

I should be greatly obliged to you for any pointers you can give me. I am somewhat flabbergasted just now at the situation confronting me,

Sincerely yours,

J. L. Comparetti

January 14, 1920

Dr. T. L. Comparette, Curator
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Comparette:

I am sorry that you are having difficulties in making good impressions and casts of coins. Although the wax of color I sent you has worked out best, there are other waxes that are nearly or just as good. Some are a trifle lighter colored, and others darker. Thereis one that is almost brown. The green will not do. Pick out some wax that is neither too hard nor too soft, but about the consistency of the sample I sent you. Do not use too much talcum. What I do is this: I smooth the surface I want to use absolutely flat, so that there are no marks, crosses or depressions in it. I then sprinkle a little talcum on it, and rub it in. Any surplus I blow off. I use no especial method in pouring the plaster in, except that I mix up little plaster at a time, the consistency of thin or medium salad dressing, and flow it into the mould by tilting the mould this way and that so that it pushes the air before it. Despite this, I do get bubbles at times. After I have poured the plaster into the mould, I rap the table on each side of the mould with my fists several times, which tends to joggle any air under the plaster up into the plaster. The whole thing is more or less a matter of practice and knack, so do not get discouraged too soon.

Very truly,

Curator.

January 19,1920.

Dear Wood: -

Have been over to Bement's today. He told me of Noe's intended visit Thursday. Please caution Mr. Noe to say nothing to Mr. B. about what I wrote you in re. the project to publish some of his rarer coins. Probably would be all right, indeed I may be there that day at the same time Noe is, but I have aimed to let Mr. B. give out the facts in regard to the project. My communication to you was really confidential, though I did not mention the fact. After Mr. B. has brought up the subject with Mr. Noe then he can discuss it as much as he would like.

Sincerely yours,

Comparette.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
MINT OF THE UNITED STATES
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 26, 1920.

Sent check

My Dear Wood:

Do you know anything of a bronze piece such as the one of which a plaster cast is herewith inclosed? It is evidently British and bears the date of the financial disaster in Great Britain. Doubtless this piece was produced somewhere down in the West Indies.

What is the scope of the last volume of Babelon's work? It is probably numbered II,3, being the third volume of the Catalogue proper. Owing to a devilish fiasco on the part of my New York dealer an order to secure that and a number of other very much needed volumes was not filled. The next time I come to N.Y. you may hear of my getting jugged for tramping a dutch book-dealer through the pavement.

If the Society should publish the Cat. of Bement's rarities, I want you to write out all the dope you know about preparing photographs for plates - and do it just as if I had never seen a plate. I wish to see what new points you have.

Sincerely yours,

E. T. Comparette

P.S. The piece is if anything a shade thicker than the two halves of the cast. The dies lie in the British fashion ↑↑

Philadelphia, Penna.
March 30, 1920.

My Dear Wood: -

Have you folks Th. Reinach's Recueuil General, and also Imhoof-Blumner's Kleinasiatische Münze?

I should be glad to have the loan of them for a short time, if you have them.

Mr. Reilly was in to see me yesterday and we talked about the cost of publishing Bement's rarities. While I expected the cost would run high, yet the estimates exceeded those expectations by an enormous margin. It is difficult to see the way out.

By using a less luxurious paper than that used in the Journal, and by reducing the matter considerably, those estimates can probably be scaled some, but not a great deal.

I trust that you are well these fine spring days and that you are finding the time to get out and gather greens and take a look at the lambs.

Sincerely yours,

P. Roussopoulos

Philadelphia, Penna.
April 2,1920

My Dear Wood:

Herewith find the coins you requested. I have noted carefully what you said about plates etc., but with special interest the statement that you were securing further estimates on the projected catalogue from the publisher. I am greatly in hopes that his estimates will lower the figures you conjectured materially. If they do, it is possible that the light will break through. For I have been figuring some myself and find that the printed matter will probably fall considerably short of my roughly estimated 100 pages, possibly as low as 65 pages, and that will be the case if within my power. Of course I have take into consideration Mr. B's. ideas, since he will foot the most of the publication bill in all probability, yet I shall trim all possible.

Congratulations on the coming trip. That is mighty fine. I do wish to go.

Sincerely yours,

T. L. Comparetti

April 13th, 1920.

Dear Comparette:-

I have just got the following quotations from Marvin concerning Mr. Bement's book:-

500 copies would cost about $970 including $140 for paper and $30 for binding.
1000 copies $1170 including $220 for paper and $60 for binding.

I think this estimate includes the printing of the plates though I am not sure. The making of the plates however would be extra, and that would be hard to figure on until I know more about them. The last heliotype plates we had made, which is for Newell's article in the forthcoming Journal and would compare in size fairly well with yours, cost us $105 for two plates, I think 750 copies each. You can therefore roughly approximate as well as I can what your plates would cost by this process. That includes, of course, paper and printing.

If you want to find out any more, take the matter up with T. R. Marvin & Son, 152 Purchase Street, Boston 9, Mass.

Very truly,

April 17th, 1920.

Dear Comparette:-

Could you either look up and tell me, or turn this over to the proper person, the following:-

When was the die in the Mint of the John Paul Jones Medal made? Has more than one die been made, and what was the copy that the medal was made from? Can copies be made in gold and silver, and price?

I suppose you have copies in bronze. If so please send one on with the bill.

I am asking these questions, etc. for one of our very important members.

Very truly,

September 16th, 1920.

Dear Comparette:-

I hate to trouble you about the enclosed but my attention has been drawn to it on my return. Our books fail to show that we have received payment for the extra copies, and if you can see your way clear to settle up it would help us in our bookkeeping.

I'm just on my way to Boston for a few days, and will write you when I come back.

Hastily yours,

Bill for $20.00
for 100 Reprints "Ace Signature"

I don't know if the Ostinatis marvin gave you in April hold good now

Philadelphia, Penna.
September 27,1920

My Dear Wood:

Under separate cover I am sending you the MS. of the Bement Catalogue, together with photographs for the plates, drawings of the monograms, legends in other than Greek or Hebrew, and of the arrow-heads.

Newell mentioned that if the photographs were sent over with the MS. you people might be able to determine the provenance of some of the pieces now attributed to such sources as Chapman or Spink or Hirsch.

are photos S.S.

I am not very sure about the photographs. They are darker than sample, No.II, sent to Marvin and by him OK'd. If some of them are too dark the photographer will remake such and print them lighter.

the photos

Befoer the MS. etc. are sent on to Boston I wish to have them sent back to me for a day. You will note that some of the pieces were not placed straight. I have a duplicate set of prints and wish to cut out any such pieces and paste them on straight; or I will send the duplicates over and let you do it if you surmise that I can not do it right, a surmise that I entertain myself.

guess you can do it

I am somewhat skeptical about the drawings of the monograms, which a clever chap here in the mint has made for me; and I am immensely more skeptical about the drawings of the arrow-heads, which I have made myself. The most I can claim for the latter is that the several angles are represented. I did not try to get the exact angle of each specimen; that would have required more time and energy than I have at my command. I hit upon twelve dominant directions and drawn accordingly. Thus I have employed an arrow-head placed at 22½ degrees from the vertical, to right for instance, for the die that is not parallel with the obverse die held vertically, nor yet reaches an angle of 45 degrees. Thus each quadrant of the circle is divided into three subordinate positions. For the work in hand that seems to me accurate enough.

Before going to press I wish to discuss certain details with you. For instance, I favor a somewhat smaller type for the incidental matter than will be used in the actual descriptions

This type should not be small, the man who is to pay the bill abhors small type. But if the descriptions are set up in the same type with which the Journal is printed, then a smaller type can easily be employed for the commentary.

You will note the names of towns beginning the brief paragraphs about them are in capitals. I should like to have heavy faced type used for those.

But these are only a few of the several questions I'd like to take up with you before the thing is finally put into type.

By the way, I believe that it would be well to strike the thing off as quickly as possible. The old gentleman is growing anxious to see it. To my regret he has high hopes of the thing. So if you can rush through that work Newell mentioned and the rest of the preliminaries and get the matter headed toward the press, I believe that it would be a good thing to do. That is, if you people feel inclined to do a thing or two to gratify age, as Newell seemed very much inclined to do.

Coming back to the plates. I made a botch of staggering in some of them. I started out in the hope of limiting the number to 18 or 20, but soon found that impossible. Another principal I allowed to control me was that of starting the coins, of Asia, fo instance, with a new plate. The result was that some of the plates are too crowded. Though I showed that point to Mr. B. and he approved of the plan. But yet I am sometimes inclined to break up about five of them, route the prints and and ditribute the coins over six. Perhaps in that way two plates could be added with advantage. What think you? It would have been necessary to make at least thirty plates if one tried to arrange the coins on the plates so as to be pleasing.

Hope to get away on abrief vacation, from which place, wherever that may be, I shall probably mail this and the MS.

Sincerely yours,

T.L. Comparette

P.S. Drawing of Phoenician and Hebrew legends will sent in a few days.

T.L.C.

Page – introduction

[illegible] plates for [illegible]

Where is the photo sent later

SUNSET HALL
WERNERSVILLE, PA.
OPEN ALL THE YEAR

October 10, '20.

My Dear Wood:-

Please paste the inclosed over the obverse of the Abydos coin showing the broken cast on plate XVIII, I think. It was sent to me here, and it stands a chance of getting mislaid before I am back in Phila.

I am assuming that you received the MS. etc. which I sent by express. I wish you would drop me a card stating if the package came safely to hand

I made but the one copy.

I shall be here another week or ten days, so you may address me here. You may have written to Philo. and the letter not yet forwarded. In that case I will have your letter to-night or in the morning.

Sincerely
Compliments

October 13th, 1920.

Dr. T. L. Comparette,
Sunset Hall,
Wernersville, Penn.

Dear Comparette:-

The manuscript and photographs came some days ago. I was under the impression that Dr. Noe acknowledged them. The fact remains that they came safe as also your photograph to substitute one of the others. We are going through the manuscript carefully as quickly as we can, but as you know this takes time.

Very truly,

October 28th, 2020.

Dr. T. L. Comparette,
United States Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:-

I note in reading over the Numismatists issued during the summer that the Government struck 15,000 $20. gold pieces. As this Society gets our coins for each year, I am consequently anxious to get this one. Can you get one of these for me if I send you the money, and will I have to send you gold? If you can not get one for me, how can I get one ?

Very truly,

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

October 25, 1920.

My Dear Wood:

Yes, I can secure a specimen of the 1920 Double-eagle for you. If you can get a gold piece or pieces to give in exchange for it it would be well to send the gold. These pieces were not made for general circulation and I have to secure it quite privately. With gold to give in exchange the matter would be simplified. It is impossible to secure gold from the Cashier here.

When you get the Double-eagle, better keep it dark. Whiskerando has been trying for months to get one or more, but without success. Should he learn that others have secured them - well, I believe you know what he would do.

Sincerely yours,

T. L. Comparette

P.S.-H.C. has just asked me over 'phone if I could secure him one of the pieces — telepathy.

C.

October 27th, 1920.

My dear Comparette:-

Mum is the word. I am enclosing four five dollar gold pieces. You know for what. Let me know what other expense you may have attached to this, such as postage, &c, and I will remit.

We are still working over the Bement Catalogue. Mrs. Brett is now at it, and she has made several suggestions and changes. I think both Moe and Newell have made other suggestions so that I think it best to return everything to you rather than send part to the printer, in fact I would rather have you send the manuscript to Marvin. I could not tell you whether the estimate Marvin gave you in April holds good now. Printing conditions change every few months. What I would do would be when you send the manuscript and the photographs to Marvin to have him re-estimate it if he thinks it would vary from his previous estimate.

As near as I can tell the photographs look pretty good for color. It is always best to have each photograph as near like the other as possible. You certainly should straighten these up. When you do that you can get the coins also arranged a little straighter, that is, one over the other or to balance better. I do not think it would be worth while for you to try to re-arrange the pages as none are awfully crowded. Do you intend to have black background or white or plain gray half-tone tints? If black, you can cut out the coins square and remount and blacken the intervening space with India ink or have the photographer do it on the negative. If white, you can cut out each coin and mount these on a white board and leave as they are and have the engraver cut out white. If you want to have a light half-tone form the back ground, you will have to cut out each coin very neatly and paste down so that the background is not soiled or stained.

I think this is all for the moment.
Very truly yours,

Philadelphia, Penna.
October 30, 1920.

My Dear Wood:

Your registered letter with inclosure was received safely. But when I went to the Coiner to get the piece I was amazed to have him tell me that he had none, but had turned them all over to the Cashier. He had told me, when I inquired in answer to your letter, that he could supply me with one. I suspect that he has some yet, but is afraid to let me have one. I shall retain your money a few days with the hope that I shall be able to secure one from some source. Failing that I will return the funds.

The plates are to be done with a black back-ground. As to rearranging them so as to make the coins line up better etc. of that I am doubtful. The dimensions of the plate as given me by Marvin are too small to do much in that way. I worked hard to stagger them in and still keep down the number of plates. Even with the greatest economy of space the number exceeds by five or six what we first counted on. If one were to make a further increase to thirty, then one could greatly improve the arrangement. But on the other hand the plates are not the final object of such a publication; it is not a work of art requiring an artistic xxx representation of the objects. The chief thing is to have the illustrations clear, orderly, and so as to admit of no confusion when consulted. So far as plates meet that requirement I shall not disturb them, but have the half-tones made direct from the photographs. I purposely had them in black so that could be done. The plate in black back-ground costs very much less than with white or half-tone background. But a number of the pieces are not placed true on the photographs, and these I shall correct by pasting over them photographs cut from a duplicate set of prints I have.

The chief thing desired is indications of provenience of pieces now attributed to Chapman, Spink, Hirsch, and other dealers. Of course I shall be glad to consider the suggestions and changes etc, proposed by Mrs. Brett, Noe, and Newell, but I surmise that many of them will deal with points

already considered. However it would be remarkable if there were not a number of things that I would put differently or change materially if attention were called to facts.

You did not mention the pen-drawings of monograms etc. to indicate whether you thought those satisfactory or not. A few of them are, I fear, somewhat out of proportion. They look all right in the large form, but when reduced to letter size I suspect that they will show up wrong. But I xx may be mistaken about that. There will be another card of drawings, giving the Punic, actual Hebrew, and other forms.

If you are going to vote right, I trust that you will vote frequently next Tuesday; but otherwise, that is, if you are going to vote wrong, then please go out and play golf, go afishing, or go to H - ackensack!

Sincerely yours,

P. L. Campanella

November 18th, 1920.

My dear Comparette:-

I have just received your manuscript back from Mrs. Brett. She has gone over parts of it very carefully, and has made a number of suggestions.

Noe has also made a few notes and suggestions as well as Harvell. I think this is all that we can do with this now.

Mrs. Brett evinced a desire to see people as she would like to go over the inscriptions again.

I think your other questions in previous letters I have already answered. The drawings as near as I can determine will [illegible] down in pretty good shape. As I wrote before I think I would let Harvin set up a sample page or specimens of the different parts.

For the time being I remain,

Yours very truly,

P.S. Your manuscript returned to you by Express today.

Philadelphia, Penna.
November 23, 1920

My Dear Wood:

Inclosed find my check for twenty dollars ($20), thus returning that amount sent me recently to purchase a Double-eagle of 1920. So far I have been utterly unable to secure a specimen and I doubt if one will become available before next June, unless more be struck yet in this year, which is doubtful. All those made have been placed under seal, and therefore are not accessible. Had I had the least suspicion that such a course would be followed I should have procured a number for those who have a legitimate use for them.

I am sending you my check for the amount but if you should desire to have your gold back I will send it. The four pieces lie here in my desk and at your disposal.

The MS. has not yet arrived, but I suppose that, like myself in many cases, you wrote your letter before it had been packed up and there has been some delay in getting it off.

A long letter from Elder tells me of a very successful sale etc. etc. I understand, too, that Schulman sold Brand a tremendous bill of rare and other things. The interest still continues.

Sincerely yours,

T. L. Comparette

November 26th, 1920.

My dear Comparette:-

Your letter with check received, and I am sorry that we can not get one of those twenty dollar gold pieces. I wish however you would keep us in mind and should one become available, get it on the spot and I will remit at once.

I trust your manuscript has arrived. It left the same day as the letter but going by express nowadays one never knows how long it will take.

Schulman, I understand, sold Brand more than ever before which, to express it mildly, is "going some".

Very truly yours,

Curator.

Philadelphia, Penna.
December 6,1920.

My Dear Wood:

The MS. reached me safely and I have had time to work it through again, and with special regard to the suggestions offered and notes made by you and Mrs. Brett. At least, so far as I can make out, their work is all that I have seen that was done at the Society's library.

In a way I am very much disappointed with the paucity of what I wanted, while on the other hand there is so much that I cannot use. What I most desired was to run down the provenance of some of the specimens to published collections, and thus rid the pages of references to Chapman, Spink, and others. They added some refrences, as many as they could, no doubt, but I had hoped with your aid to secure more of them. So while I am very grateful for what I got, yet I am disappointed over the results as a whole. For, in some cases it seems that they lost track of the notion that it was not citation of an instance of the publication of the type, but an actual reference to the previous publication of the partitcular coin I desired. Anyhow in some instances references were given to ~~xxix~~ other coins that the particular one in the Bement Collection.

The changes suggested by Mrs. Brett are hardly necessary. I do not understand her when she states that the coins attributed to Panormus are not the Ziz coins usually attributed to that mint, and also suggests that these Siculo-Punic coins should follow Syracuse. Certainly they are specimens of the very Ziz-coins generally attributed to that mint, the assumption now being that Ziz is Punic for Panormus, or the other way around, if you please. Of course the coins are Siculo-Punic, and my note makes that very plain. She doubtless based her note on the arrangement found in the B.M.C. of the Sicilian coins, now out of date. I deem it better to follow Head and other very late authorities, as Jameson has done too. Her note shows the influence of Hill's discussion; she should have read Hill more carefully, as his other statements show that he considered Panormus the chief mint for the Siculo-Punic coins.

Now similar objections would hold as to other of Mrs. Brett's notes and suggestions. Some of them would, if adopted, would involve the inclusion of the quite too scholarly conclusions of Holm et al., while others advise the clarification of the obvious. The former would look very pedantic in such a work, while the latter would be patronizing to any possible reader. I worked mighty hard to steer a course between Scylla and Charybdis in that always delicate matter, and many of Mrs. Brett's suggestions would tend to uneveness.

There is no resentment in these comments, but it is only fair, that after she and Noe took the trouble to read the MS. and make suggestions, I give a very good reason for failure to adopt many of them.

Of course I leave it to your good judgement to make known to them or not my position in the matter, if you think best and as you think best. In any case I wish that you would express to them my thanks for their efforts.

It might be well to call Newell's attention to the position taken herein.

Tell Newell, also, that I saw Mr. Bement the other day and found him rather feeble. But the doctor claims that he is not so ill, but that he might now get out without injury. He is restrained, however, by fear. That, too, is a bad symptom. He expressed his appreciations of the message of Newell's regards, and asked me to return his.

As to the imprint of the American Society. Do you folks want that in the form usual on your publications? The MS. will get away for Boston today or tomorrow.

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Campbell

January 10th, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
Mint of U.S.
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Comparette:

I received from Marvin this morning, and have returned to him, certain prints with numbers pasted on of the Bement Collection. As far as I could see, these were all right.

As I understand it, Marvin will send us proofs as well as to you of the book as it is set up. It is Mr. Newell's intention to trace the source of as many of these coins as possible, which is the chief thing that you wanted. Also, he will read over the proof and help catch any mistake, typographical or otherwise, that might occur; someone else here will probably do the same. The proof will then be sent to you because we can see that if we returned it to Marvin, we all would be doing a lot of things at cross purposes. We will, consequently, need a set of numbered plates, either photographs or the printed results, and I have written Marvin to that effect.

Is what I have written satisfactory to you, and according to the way you wished and planned?

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

January 14, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
U.S. Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Comparette:

I am sending you, herewith, the first batch of proof which Marvin sent us, on which we have made some corrections here. As I wrote you the other day, we think it best for us to send you these proofs rather than send them direct from here to Marvin. You can then incorporate our corrections with yours and return to the printer at one time; otherwise, Marvin would have to correct the work twice - and possibly, we might make corrections utterly at variance with your ideas.

I see that at last Henry has gotten hold of one of those $20 gold pieces; he obtained it from somebody at an advance in price.

Very truly yours,

Curator

[illegible]
Enc.

Philadelphia, Penna.
January 15,1921.

My Dear Wood:

I have received the proof sheets with the corrections. You have but one or two I had not caught and I had caught several you did not. Several of the errors, something like eight I believe, were made by the compositor, being correct in copy.

That bronze Distater was Marvin's work, done on seeing the apparent omission. He made his guess from the weight, not noticing the metal. By the way I am trying to make some sort of rational determination of the denominations of the bronze coins, basing conclusions on the few with value indicated on them. Rather hazardous, I know, but not dangerous. This is not supposed to be a severe scientific catalogue.

I shall put a question-mark after them. Thank you for calling my attention again to the light-weight Croton piece. I had been misled by the incorrect reading of the ethnic. I had read it with the koppa ϙ, but on closer inspection of the cast I see that it is pretty certainly kappa. The letter is almost entirely off the flan. With koppa the piece would have to be placed in the latter part of the fifth century; and thus it was that I had not made the change when my attention was called to it before.

Sincerely yours,

T. L. Comparetti

Philadelphia, Penna.
February 7, 1921

[illegible] Ord:

Have spoken to Superintendent [illegible] securing you a Double-eagle, 1921, from [illegible]. [illegible]haps you had issue bonds to pay for it.

If possible shall also secure specimens from [illegible] mints, unless you already have them.

Hastily,

Coupanette

Sorry about your letter of Feb 7. Was away, would like all the Branch Mint coins

Philadelphia, Penna.
February 1[illegible],19[illegible]1

My Dear Wood:

Did Mr. Field arrange to have a 1920 Double Eagle sent to the Society? There were a number in the mint and some of them have been obtained by various members of the Commission for themselves, their friends, and various museums. He mentioned to me that he had secured the promise of a copy of the Assay medal for the Society. I called his attention to the matter of securing also a Double-eagle. I trust that he did, for they are hard for me to get, for certain reasons. But if he did not, I will try for one, also for an Eagle of the San Francisco mint.

I sold one of your Peace of Versailles medals, for remittance on which I will arrange when this gold is forwarded to you, should there be any to be forwarded.

Has copies of galley-sheets Nos. 8,9,and 10 been sent to you? I shall retain mine till I hear from you, as it is better to consolidate corrections before sending in.

I understand he did not [illegible] up with him.

would like to get one

OK

?

Sincerely yours,

T. L. Comparetti

Have been away for a month - got back Saturday. We are all working night & day for an exhibition opening Friday of Clara Sheridan's work (she was the sculptress just back from Russia). We have stripped everything out of the ground floor of the museum cases and all.

February 15, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
Mint of U.S.
[illegible]

My dear Comparette:

I am sorry that your letter of February 7th has remained unanswered so long, but I have been [illegible] and have only just returned to New York.

In regard to your securing specimens of all the Branch Mint coins, I should be very glad indeed to have them.

I understand that Mr. Field did not arrange to have a 1920 Double Eagle sent to the Society. I should be glad to know if you [illegible] the matter up with him. We should also be glad to secure an Eagle of the San Francisco mint.

We are all working night and day for an exhibition which is to open Friday next. It is the work of Mrs. Clara [illegible], the sculptress, who has just returned from Russia where she made busts of Lenin, Trotsky, etc. We have stripped everything from the ground floor, cases and all; you will appreciate how much work this entailed but I think the results will prove satisfactory.

We have three galleys of your article and bone to send them off to you today.

Very truly yours,

[illegible]

Curator

February 24th, 1941

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Comparette:

Many, many thanks for the double eagle and eagle of 1920. You certainly are a good friend of the Society.

If I had properly tumbled to the fact that you were going back to Philadelphia last night, I would have made a more strenous attempt to extricate myself from the cul-de-sac I was in at the dinner.

I am sending you herewith my checue for $30 to cover the double eagle and eagle of 1920. If there is anything more, let me know; or, if you want gold, let me know also, and I will go to the bank and see if I can get the proper coin.

Again thanking you, I am

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E
Enc.

Philadelphia, Penna.
February 24, 1921

My Dear Wood:

I was very much disappointed last evening in not having a chance to chat with you and discuss a number of things of mutual interest. But I simply had to get back to Phila. before morning, so that it was not possible to remain until the party broke up and gave a chance to talk. I was in a wretched condition besides and needed rest. Had not slept for two nights on end. I thought I would yield up the ghost before I reached the Pennsy Station last night. A fit of acute indigestion seized me and nearly proved my undoing. Never suffered so much in my life for ten minutes. Had it not been for some kindly gentlemen who sensed my condition and came to my aid I do not know what might have been the result. And to think of it - one of them had a small flask!! A taste of the contents set my heart into lively action and I pulled out in fine style. But I hope I shall never experience the same sort of thing again. I had eaten very juliciously too, so that it brought me to a realization that while I am in better health, yet I am far from well.

I enclose sixty dollars in gold. Deduct therefrom $5. for my annual dues to the Society, also $5. as remittance on sale of one of your Versailles medals, and the balance will be your obligation to me.

Sincerely yours,

P. L. Campanella

P.S. Believe me I have had a time getting those gold coins. Trouble - Officials don't realize value of them and are on alert for such opportunities. Hard to get anything from the guys.

Philadelphia, Penna.
February 25, 1921

My Dear Wood:

Herewith I am sending you checque for ten dollars, to be applied according to my letter to you yesterday.

The Indo-China coins are struck at the San Francisco mint. I am making an effort to secure specimens and shall get one for you folks if successful. Of course these coins are not distributable in this country and the San Francisco mint will not let them go out without special order from the Treasury. And the officials of the Treasury are awfully virtuous - sometimes.

By the way, we desire a copy of that Red Cross medal, so please enter us for one. You may have forgot my standing order for all such medals.

Sincerely yours,

P. L. Concoretti

February 28th, 1921.

Dr. T. L. Comparette,
U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Comparette:-

Your letter at hand enclosing cheque for ten dollars, which I have credited to your dues and to the Peace Medal.

I have also sent in an order for the Red Cross Medal, and this should come to you shortly.

Very truly yours,

March 12th, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

I have just noticed that the mint coined some standard silver dollars last month. Is there any chance now or later of getting one of these?

Very truly yours,

Curator

HM/E

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

March 25, 1921.

My Dear Wood:

No silver dollars of current year are available as yet. I have not secured a specimen for the Cabinet.

How about the speimen of the Red Cross medal I ordered? I was [illegible] the other evening. You have not forgot us, have you?

Sincerely yours,

T. L. Comparette

No. We order these in bunches yours should be in the mint by now,

5 sets 1921

March 30th, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

The Red Cross medal was sent to you several days ago. We hold these orders until we have enough to warrant striking up another batch. Hence, the delay! If you have not received the piece, let us know at once.

I would be much obliged if you would be on the look-out for one of the 1921 dollars for our cabinet.

Some time within the next week or ten days I would like five sets of the current 1921 coins. I want to send four sets to Europe and keep one for ourselves.

Very truly yours,

Curator

M/A

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

April 7, 1921.

My Dear Wood:-

The Red-Cross Medal came to hand this morning and the bill has been ordered paid.

I trust that you will yet discover that by some error the other one was not really sent and thus you will not incur any loss. Perhaps, however, it was insured as was this one; and in that case you will have the pleasure of getting your money back.

Sincerely yours,

Curator.

April 9th, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

I am glad to know that you received the Red Cross medal. For some unknown reason, a few of these were held up at the die-sinkers when we supposed they had been sent.

Noe sails for Europe on the 23rd; and if you could send me before that date the five sets of 1921 coins, I would be much obliged.

I suppose you are busy writing an article for our small form!

Very truly,

HW/E

Curator

Philadelphia, Penna.
April 11, 1921.

My Dear Wood: -

You may depend upon securing the coins you desire about the 16th or 17th inst. By that time I shall be able to procure perfect specimens of certain denominations not now available in that state.

I had never thought of preparing anything for that small form; it had been my understanding that that interesting little work was to be the special organ of the American Society official circles, plus New York cronies. My energies are just now directed toward other things.

Why not have Riley roll up some Chinese material and discharge it through that publication? Chinese subjects would prove interesting just now I am sure.

So Noe is going abroad! Fine, indeed. I am glad to hear it. It will do him a world of good. And he will make good use of the opportunity. Who next? The stenographers? You are all to be congratulated.

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Courtenay

Philadelphia, Penna.
April 15, 1931.

My Dear Wood:-

Herewith I am inclosing the five sets of coins you desired. Of course the Dollar is not included, as none is available.

I have seven corrected galley sheets awaiting the arrival of the duplicates from the American Society. I have understood that Mr. Noe has been doing a great deal of this work, perhaps nearly all of it, and one could not blame him if he found himself too busy with preparations for his trip abroad, to say nothing about the excitement, to give very much attention to such matters, as correcting galley sheets.

Sincerely yours,

T. L. Comparetti

April 18th, 1921.

Dr. T. L. Comparette,
United States Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Comparette:-

I am herewith sending you my cheque for $4.77 which I think is what I owe you for the proof sets, $4.55 plus 22¢ postage. Many thanks for these. Let me know if I owe you any more.

The reason the proofs have been held up is because Mr. Newell has been under the weather and away a good deal of the time the past three weeks. I expect him back in harness in a day or so, and I will see that the proofs are hastened along.

Very truly yours,

April 28th, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Comparette:

Enclosed herewith is page proof of your catalogue of Greek Coins. Mr. Newell thinks there is no necessity for him to check it up further.

Very truly yours,

Curator

A.

Aug 10th, 1921

Mr. F. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Comparette:

Many thanks for the 1921 silver dollar. You are a 'bird'! I am, herewith, enclosing my cheque for $1.14 which I think covers everything.

Did you receive my last cheque for the other coins bought? I ask this because I notified it was not among my return cheques at the beginning of this month.

We have received a collection of coins made in Persia amounting to at least ten thousand pieces, including coins from the early times down to the present day; naturally nine-tenths of them are Mohammedan. We are trying to dispose of them in the most advantageous way. Would the Mint be interested in purchasing small representative selections of these - such as Parthian, early Khalifs, Seljuke, Mongol, Shahs of Persia, etc.?

Very truly yours,

Curator

[illegible]
[illegible]

Philadelphia, Penna.
May 11, 1921.

My Dear Wood:-

Your letter of the 10th, with inclosure is just at hand. Also I received your check for other coins sent you some time since, ~~not received~~. Failure to get to down to the bank for several days accounts for your not finding it among your last month's checks.

I think we should be quite willing to take some of the oriental coins you mention. Of course we have some of those series, but not many. Give me some idea of what you have to dispose of and the prices etc. and I will let you know definitely. The matter should have prompt attention, since I should like to get the bill in on this year's fund.

I have been holding off on purchases waiting the Jenks sale, but now I understand that that sale will probably be postponed until autumn, the printers' strike being the alleged reason.

The work on the Bement catalogue is nearing the end. There must be a considerable quantity of proof sheets over there, for Newell's notes on which I am holding up a few days. It looks now as if the text might run to 110 pages, which I regret. I figured on not over a hundred.

Sending these

Please ask Newell if he can tell me the significance of the humped bull on coins of Magnesia ad Maeandrum. The crooked bull should make a good river-god for the Maeander, but the Greeks were hardly so humorous.

Search me! would make an interesting subject for strike

Sincerely yours,

T. L. Comparetti

Mr. Howland Wood,
New York City.

May 13th, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparetts
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparettes:

Your letter at hand. I sent you yesterday a few more galley proofs, and will forward in a day or so one or two more galleys, which are all we have.

I asked Newell concerning the significance of the humped bull on the coins of Magnesia ad Maeandrum. Newell's answer was "Search me!" I do not know but what it would make an interesting subject for study.

The Oriental coins I mentioned will come along during the summer and autumn - that is, after we have assimilated and classified them.

Yours sincerely,

Curator

[illegible]
[illegible]

P.S. Mr. Newell has handed me the balance of the galley proofs which I, herewith, enclose.

Philadelphia, Penna.
June 6, 1921.

My Dear Wood:-

Will you find out about proof-sheets of the Bement Catalogue there at the Society rooms? Nos. 35,37-39 must be there.

I am very anxious to hurry the work along and get it out of the way.

Are you people going to try to boost the measure for a Peace Dollar?

Sincerely yours,

Compton.

Go along without Sr.

June 7th, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Comparette:

Mr. Lovell has been out in the country for the last two weeks; I expect him in any day and will take up with him the matter of the missing proofs.

Did the Mint strike an inaugural Harding medal or any Harding medal? If so, can you send me two copies; or, if you wish, let me know the facts and the amount, and I will send you the money.

Dr. H. H. Whitehead, from India, has arrived here and is spending a month looking over our Indian coins.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

Philadelphia, Penna.
June 10, 1921.

My Dear Wood:

The mint has not struck a Harding medal of any sort. Eventually, I suppose, the inevitable Presidential Medal will be inflicted on him. And that leads me to suggest that we endeavor to break the chain of sad monotony and have a worth-while medal of the President made. To do so would require that we reach sombody who will see to it that a commission is given to an artist to do the work. What do you say to trying it?

John Flannagan was here the other day trying to sell me some of his medals: of Whitman, French, Bartlett, Prince of Wales et al. His prices were $50 per, and $75 for the Prince's. Too high, in my opinion. Do you know anything about his prices to others? He has a notion that the Government should foster him as a rising young artist!

I'd like to have them, but at fair prices. Any hint you can give me will be confidential.

Sincerely yours.

P. L. Conparetti

June 14th, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

I doubt if our Society would want to bestir itself very much right now on the Harding Medal. The Council has either turned down or thought best to do very little on several propositions which have been made to them lately. We are a little fed up on medals and the past two or three have not been successful also, with Mac in Europe there is no one here to look after the matter, and I personally have not the inclination - and again, have not the time.

I think the prices that Flanagan quoted to you are the prices he has been quoting to others. But he wants to sell you are certain of his plaques which he has not offered generally to the public. All artists usually hold these at a somewhat high price - to keep them exclusive and to make a little money. As a matter offact, they do not make much because the casting and finishing, and bother they have in preparing one of these plaques amount to about $30 or $40, so they do not get very much out of it! Flanagan is such a talker and has so many ideas and irons in the fire concerning the way the public should treat artists in general - and especially himself - that he usually leaves a rather bad impression.

Can you send direct to Mr. George F. Hill, Dept. of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London, a set of proofs of the plates of the Recent catalogue, as they are anxious to see some advance sheets?

Very truly yours,

[illegible]

June 30th, 1921.

Dear Comparetto:-

I am returning herewith the title page of the Bement Collection. This is all right. I held it a few days so as to take it up with Terrell as I myself was not over familiar with this.

Very truly,

July 12th, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
U.S.Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

I have forgotten whether I have asked you in previous letters if you can get for us any Indo-China coins that the Mint has been making. As a matter of fact we would like to get any of the foreign coins made at the Mint. I think I have held off writing you as you have generally sent these on with your compliments, and I have not felt like asking too much of you. I would prefer to get more of these and to pay for them.

Very truly yours,

WW/s

Philadelphia, Penna.
July 14, 1921

My Dear Wood:-

The Indo-China coins are being struck at the San Francisco Mint. I have not yet secured specimens of them. I had hoped that I might induce the Engraving Department here to strike me a couple of specimens, but have not succeeded.

What success we will have in securing specimens of those coins I don't know since they under control of the French Government. I shall ascertain the facts and if I get any I shall also secure speimens for you people.

Sincerely yours,

J. L. Campbell

MERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIET

Philadelphia, Penna.
July 29, 1921.

My Dear Wood:

Marvin has inquired about head lines etc. for plates of Bement Catalogue. Since you people are concerned and since you have been the plate expert on the undertaking I will ask you to pass on my suggestion, which is herewith inclosed. Please forward decision to Mr. Marvin as promptly as possible, as he is anxious to get the plates out of the way for another million impression job.

Are you planning to go to Boston in August for the annual feast?

Sincerely yours,

W. Compartetty

August 2nd, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

Your favor with lay out for Marvin at hand and this I will send on to him. I have suggested the word PLATE instead of PL. The caption underneath I have let go as it is, but do not think that it is of much value one way of looking at it as the book is on Greek coins, and it seems superfluous. Yet again, it does mark the plates in case they get detached from the rest of the book. Of course, it would entail more work but might be of benefit if you could put some rough geographical indication of what the coins are, as in many of the S.N. catalogues.

I am planning to go to Boston for the Convention. I trust I shall see you there; Newell will probably also go.

Very truly yours,

HW/E

P.S. I note in the Mint Report just received that some Landing of the Pilgrims ½-dollars have been coined. Are these the same as the Pilgrim Half-dollars gotten out last year? If not, where can I get one? Also, where can I get the Missouri Centennial half-dollar?

H.W.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

August 3, 1921.

My Dear Wood:

You sensed the only reason I had for the plate captions, that they would identify them with the work in case of separation. I got the idea from the Jameson catalogue. It seemed to me waste to insert geographical indications.

Pilgrim-Halfdollars for 1921 have been struck. That is very likely what you saw. As soon as available I will send you specimens of that and of the Missouri Half-dollars. I have not yet succeeded in securing Indo-China dollars. Shall try another angle.

Have been planning to go to Boston, but I am not so sure about it now. The smelling Committee of the Dawes Budget crowd is expected here in about two weeks, and I wish to be on hand when they come. Have good reason to be.

Too bad for Kunz. Fate has hit him hard late years.

Sincerely yours,

[signature]

August 26th, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

I have justy come back from Boston and was sorry that you could not be there. I was unable to get the Pilgrim half-dollar of 1921, as they said they were not distributing these until the 1500 were exhausted, therefore if you could snitch one for me I would appreciate it.

I understood up in Boston that there were two varieties of the Missouri half-dollar, I think the difference being the number of stars in the background. Do you know anything concerning this? Also, can you get one of these or should I order one direct? I see they are now advertised.

Very truly yours,

HW/E

Philadelphia, Penna.
August 29, 1921.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Amer. Numismatic Society,
New York City.

My Dear Wood: -

You may depend upon me to secure for you a 1921 Pilgrim Half-dollar. I cannot send you one at once, but later on I shall get some and shall then remember you people.

Yes, there are two varieties of the Missouri Half-dollar. The one is distinguished by "2*4"in the field, in front of the bust on obverse, alluding to the 24th State of the Union. Those have not yet been released, and I have a letter from the Sedalia Trust Company stating that theywould not be released before round the 20th of September. The Cashier, or whoever answered the letter, suggested that I write again about that time. It is my purpose to send him a check for one or two about September 15th. I rather surmise that they will be difficult to secure, for evidently the Missourians are to have them.

I am still after the Indo-China dollars and expect to get them. I shall remember you when I do.

Was very sorry to miss the Boston Meeting, but was quite alone here and could not make an arrangement that would let me off. I am very much in need of a vacation. Have heard that you had a fine convention.

Sincerely yours,

F. L. Comparetti

August 30th, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

Your letter just at hand, and when you hit the Missouri people again for one of those 2'4 half dollars, try to include me in the order. I will hold up from ordering the other one and you can order that one too at the same time. I understand they are being sold in Missouri for 50¢ each.

We had a very nice time at the Convention. Nothing of great moment or value was done or shown; but to my mind the value of these Conventions consist in the meeting of old friends, making new acquaintances and getting a chance to see various parts of the country.

Very truly yours,

[illegible]

November 2nd, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Comparette:

I notice that the Mint is striking Alabama half-dollars. Can I get one of these through you? If not, to whom should I write?

We have had copies of the ordinary Missouri half-dollar presented to us but not the one with the 2 * 4. Have you as yet been able to get hold of any of these? Or could you advise me as to where I should write to obtain one? Also, are the 1921 Pilgrim half-dollars yet in the market?

Newell is going to Europe on the 12th of this month and probably will not return until the spring ploughing.

We are issuing a medal to commemorate the visit of Marshal Foch to this country, and the circular will be sent you shortly.

Very truly yours,

EM/E

Philadelphia, Penna.
November 5, 1921.

My Dear Wood: -

Your letter with inclosure is just at hand. The two brochures will be sent at once.

Also I had Thursday your letter in re Alabama and one type of Missouri Half-dollars. You can depend upon me to secure all of these issues for you. That is, if I get any you shall share in them. The Alabama pieces have not been released by the Commissioners as yet, so that I have not been able to secure specimens. That is what the Coiner told me yesterday. Perhaps he meant only the one variety.

At last reports the 2*4 variety of the Missouri pieces had not been released. The Sedalia Trust Company holds them. Likewise the 1921 Pilgrims are being held up till the 1920's are sold. The Equitable Trust Company, New York, is after the Indo-Chine Dollars for me.

Wish Newell bon voyage for me. Lucky guy!

Sincerely-and golfily,

R. L. Comparette

December 13th, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

I see that the Mint is striking 1921 Peace Dollars. If any of these are available, let me know and I will send on to you the appropriate sum for which you ask.

Very truly yours,

WMJ

Philadelphia, Penna.
December 15, 1921

My Dear Wood: -

I can secure a 1921 Double Eagle for you but you will have to keep the fact under your hat. They are not to be issued, except through the back door; and that is the way you will get this one.

Did you secure a specimen of the Costa Rican Two Colones gold piece? They were made here this current year.

You also desire a 1921 Pilgrim Half-dollar, I believe. Is there anything else in the list of your desiderata?

Make out the list in full, when you write.

Would send you the Double-eagle at once, but it will be a day or so before I can get it. Besides by waiting we will be able to secure specimens from a fresh die.

Sincerely yours,

P. L. Comparetti

December 17th, 1921

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

I am glad to know that I can get one of those Double Eagles. We have not got the Costa Rican Two Colones; nor have we as yet got the 1921 Half-Dollar.

Also, if you have on hand any of the minor foreign coins being struck at the Mint, you might include those, and I will reimburse you for whatever you say.

I was wondering if, without any trouble, you could get me one of the Army badges of the Indian wars. I have one but want to show two in order to show the first and second ribbon. If you cannot get this, I will write the War Department for an order for it.

Wishing you the Compliments of the Season,

Very truly yours,

HG/A

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

January 3,1922.

My Dear Mord:-

Herewith inclosed find 1921 Double-eagle, Dos Colenes piece, and four Peace Dollars; also 1921 Pilgrim piece. Do these cover your desiderata? The two colones piece is just equivalent to a dollar.

Sincerely and hurriedly,

Cornparette

P. S. Collectors are almost crazy about the new dollar, that is, to get them. Henry will require a padded cell by tommorrow if somebody does not take him in hand.

C.

Postage 25
400
50
100
2000
[illegible]75

[illegible] 20.75 Paid.
[illegible] 100 [illegible] Paid
[illegible]

THE PEACE DOLLAR

Whenever a new coin design makes its appearance, the Press of the country takes a special delight in picking out all minor points in the design that can be found, overlooking for the most part the general effect and the whole. The Press in recent years finds fault with various phases such as high-relief, non-stacking qualities and any other points for criticism, without taking into consideration technical difficulties and limitations. The public in general are prone to condemn coins through one or two minor details, overlooking the ensemble. Again, it is human nature to dislike anything new or unaccustomed. Familiarity and long association blunts the natural desire to pick to pieces.

The new Peace medal is good! We understand that de Francisci, and the other artists competing, had but two weeks in which to present their respective designs. If this is true, it is the fault of the government, or those in charge of the new coinage, that not more time was allowed. Considering this, we think de Francisci's - and, in fact, the other artists who submitted their work, should be congratulated on their efforts.

The head on the obverse is a bold artistic piece of work. We might criticize the youthful appearance, but that is a matter of personal opinion. The hair may seem a little ragged, but can we condemn that when on all sides we see all sorts of ragged hair today? The rays shooting from the coronet perhaps could be a

little better defined; but if they were, they might not lend themselves to the general scope of the design. The artist possibly worked over many alternatives only to reject them, and doubtless his judgment in the matter was the best. The obverse on the whole measures up very well with the Ten-dollar gold piece, its nearest comparison.

The reverse we consider very satisfactory. Its style is a little different from the obverse, but then the style of the Twenty-dollar gold piece, which we can take as a comparison, differs a little from its obverse. We understand that some of the significance on the reverse has been with-drawn, by the removal of the sword.

On the whole we have no criticism to make regarding the new dollar - and have nothing but praise. We wish, however, that the lettering were slightly smaller and perhaps a little more delicately modelled, but lettering is one of the hard points of reconciliation with nearly all medals and coins, especially on our coinage where the artist is handicapped by the obligatory use of three mottoes, the name of the country and the denomination of the piece, which is too much for any one coin to assimilate.

Our thanks and congratulations go out to Mr. de Francisci.

January 6th, 1922

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

Many thanks for sending on the coins. I am enclosing my cheque herewith for $25.75. Please let me know if it is not right.

I suppose the branch mints did not strike these new dollars but will begin to do so for 1922. Can you confirm this? Also, I notice that the hair does not strike up especially well. I suppose this will be worked upon for better results, therefore there may be varieties of dies for 1922. If so, will you be on the lookout for me?

Is there any chance of getting the Alabama half-dollar? Or shall I get one here in New York?

Very truly yours,

HW/B

January 26th, 1922

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

I am writing for our small form the Commemorative coins issued by the United States.

Can you tell me who designed the Mc. Kinley Memorial Gold Dollar of 1916 or 1917? Also, have you any records as to how many were sold, and how many melted down?

Have you as yet got hold of any of the Alabama half-dollars? And how many varieties are there of these?

Very truly yours,

M./H.

Philadelphia, Penna.
February 21,1922.

My Dear Wood:

Herewith I am sending you some coins, the best specimens I could secure. The Dollar was caught in hand as it fell from the die, so that it is not scratched, but evidently the die was not clean and the coin looks dirty. It was the best I could find in the lot of ten.

Sincerely yours,

Comparetta

February 23rd, 1922

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

Your favour with the half-dollars and the new dollar at hand. Many thanks for sending these on. I am very glad to get a 1 of them and am enclosing my cheque for [illegible], which if it is not right please let me know.

I have a few questions that I want to fire at you, but I have not yet got them in shape - I have no doubt that you are thankful!

Very truly yours,

H.W/E
Enc.

February 27th, 1922.

Dr. T. L. Comparette,
U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia.

Dear Comparette:-

Here are a few more questions in re commemorative coins.

Who designed the Illinois half dollar? I suppose it was done in the Mint. Also can you tell me how many, if any, were sent back to be melted up?

I note in one of the latest "ads" concerning the Missouri half dollar that those without the 2 star 4 have been returned to the mint for melting down. Can you tell me how many of these were melted down?

Also same story with the Pilgrim half dollar.

I think this is about all.

Very truly,

Curator.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
MINT OF THE UNITED STATES
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 28,1922.

Mr. Howland Wood,
New York City.

My Dear Wood: -

Morgan, Geo. T., designed the Illinois Half-dollar, The head of Lincoln is after the head of the statue of Lincoln at Springfield, Ill.,and sculptured by Andrew O'Connor (if that is the way that difficult Irishman spells his name and it is).

None of the Illinois pieces have been turned back and none of the Pilgrim Halves. So far Missouri is the only one that has failed in the distribution of the pieces, though I understand that Illinois has not yet disposed of all hers. It is not improbable that some of those will sometime find their way into the melting-pot. In some instances the States have not taken the total amount authorized, but you can find the number actually struck and delivered from the Recapitulation of the Coinage by years in the Director's Reports. The information is found in the footnotes, as you have very likely observed.

29,600 Missouris were returned. Come again, if you like; glad to help you.

Sincerely yours

R. L. Comparetti

Philadelphia, Penna.
March 7, 1922.

My Dear Wood:

May I ask you for a favor, done on the double quick? I desire ~~a~~ plaster casts of that fine Syracusan Dekadrachm, or one of them, you people have. Whether by Cimon or Evainetus makes no difference. I wish to make a lantern slide of it.

Two cards on which were the plaster casts I had of those coins in the Bement collection have been lost apparently. I had taken them to a photographer and he claims he returned them, but I am sure he did not.

I thank you in advance for speedy action on this request, as my work will be held up a little for them. A talk on hand at the Philobiblon the 23rd. Don't you pity me - or them?

Sincerely yours,

R. L. Campbell

March 8th, 1917

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

I will send you this afternoon casts of our best Syracusan dekadrachm. I am always glad to be of any help I can.

I notice an ad. in the Numismatist concerning the Grant dollars and half-dollars. It strikes me that they must be a little premature. What have you heard regarding these? Are they making the designs? Just what are they doing?

Very truly yours,

H /E

Philadelphia, Penna.
March 9, 1922.

My Dear Wood:

It is my understanding that the engraving department is at work on the Grant coins, but they are keeping somewhat quiet about it. I suppose they do not wish to say very much till assured that their design are accepted.

Grant

The Numismatist advertisement is correct as to the character of the types. These are to be a head of Grant and on reverse a log cabin. The monet I hear of anything further I will advise you.

Thank you for the casts, which I shall receive in the morning.

Sincerely yours,

D. L. Campbell

Grant

205
1921 v.81

GRANT COINS APPROVED.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—Authority for the director of the mint to direct coinage of the Grant memorial gold dollar and silver half was granted in a bill passed to-day by the Senate and sent to the House. The measure provides for the coinage of 10,000 gold dollars and 250,000 silver half dollars.

ATLANTIC COAST LINE — Augusta, Charleston, Savannah—thru service daily. Office 1246 Broad. Tel. Langa[illegible]

Ny Herald
Jan 24 1922

Jan 23 1922

Philadelphia, Penna.
March 13,1922.

My Dear Wood:

The Grant Memorial coins are on the way. The models are now being reduced. They are the work of Laura Gardin Fraser, 3, MacDougal Alley, your town. Coins will be struck from them on the 29th inst., according to present program.

Should you wish to go to press with your article before the coins are struck I am sure that you could secure a photograph from Fraser, which you could reduce, and if necessary no doubt the Director's office would readily give permission to utilize same.

Sincerely yours,

P. L. Comparette

P.S. Casts have just arrived. Thank you, though I had to use what I had; couldn't wait. C.

March 18th, 1922

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

With the attempt to do many miscellaneous things, I know that I will not get my commemorative article out for some little time, and the Grant coins will probably be struck before I get it finished.

If you can do the following things easily, I wish you would -

If you can get hold for me as soon as possible the two varieties of the gold dollar and the half-dollar, please do so. If not, could you make impressions of these so that I can photograph them. My illustrations, for the most part, will be from plaster casts.

Very truly yours,

HW/E

C

May 10th, 1922

Dr. T. L. Comparette
United States Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

I note in the last Mint Report that the Mint is striking Double Eagles. If there is any likelihood of 1922 gold being rare or hard to get, will you try to save out one of each denomination for me. If you can get these before June 1st, I wish you would because I have to go to hospital and may be away during June and July.

Very truly yours,

HW/E

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
MINT OF THE UNITED STATES
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

OFFICE OF
THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 11, 1922.

My Dear Wood:

I shall look after your interests in re the Double-eagle of 1922. The first opportunity offered of securing a specimen I will get it and forward it to you.

I trust that trip to the hospital is not anything very serious, and the two months vacation to follow will more than compensate for the inconvenience.

Would you people be interested in a rather large collection of medals pertaining to the French Revolution? This morning I received a list from Oakland, Cali., running into approximately six hundred numbers, with the information that the medals would be offered for sale at an early date.

Sincerely yours,

F. L. Comparetti

May 13th, 1922

Dr. T. L. Comparette
U. S. Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Comparette:

I doubt if we should be interested in the French Revolutionary medals. To begin with, we already have a pretty nice collection of the First Revolution and a very fine collection of the Revolution of '48. Also, the person who would be interested in buying them for us is going to Europe in a few days and, consequently, I think this is not the right time to approach him.

I trust my trip to the hospital is not going to be serious. They say it is an easy job nowadays to cut one's tummy open, tack on a piece of tar paper and then reshingle the roof.

Mr. Newell blew into his home port yesterday on the Mauretania. We are all glad to have him back.

Very truly yours,